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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM OFFICES

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December 1993, the Second Committee decided to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, without a vote. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.2/48/L.85.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 5 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, the General Assembly would:

(a) Authorize the establishment of field offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Eritrea, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, and decide that those offices shall be field offices of the United Nations development system;

(b) Reaffirm that field office activities related to public information, where in place, should follow the relevant provisions of the General Assembly, in particular its resolution 48/___; 1/

(c) Further reaffirm that all field offices are funded through voluntary contributions, including those from the host country, and that the United Nations regular budget is a financial source for mandated activities currently related to public information.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the proposed programme of work

3. The above request is related to major programme VIII (Public information), programme 38 (Public information), of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 2/ and section 24 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 3/

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

4. Field office activities related to public information are in place in the nine countries mentioned in paragraph 2 (a) above in the context of activities described under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. It is envisaged that these activities would include: collaboration with national information media, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, public libraries and special interest groups in order to create greater public awareness of the United Nations in all areas, including development issues; promoting the wider dissemination of United Nations public information materials; and providing timely feedback of published and publicly available media and official comments on the activities of the Secretary-General and the United Nations.

5. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, the Secretary-General would propose to continue these activities within the framework of the field offices that would be authorized pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. The Secretary-General would report on those arrangements to the Committee on Information at its next session.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995

6. No modifications would be required under section 24 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

7. It is anticipated that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, the activities outlined in section C above would require the addition of eight Professional (4 P-5 and 4 P-4) posts and eight local-level posts and related operating costs, as outlined below:

	Thousands of United States dollars
Staff costs	1 645.4
Travel on official business	45.0
Contractual services	72.0
General operating expenses	360.0
Supplies and materials	144.0
Furniture and equipment	90.0
Total	2 356.4

F. Potential for absorption

8. No provision has been made to cover these additional requirements under section 24 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Therefore it is not possible for the cost of $2,356,400 to be absorbed from within the provisions under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

G. Indication of additional requirements

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, it is estimated that net additional requirements of $2,356,400 would be required under section 24 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $466,800 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

H. Contingency fund

10. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under that procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

11. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium

1994-1995. Should it not prove possible to meet the required costs from the contingency fund, the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70 may have to be postponed, as provided for in the criteria for use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Summary

12. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $2,356,400 would be required under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

13. Furthermore, an additional appropriation of $446,800 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ Draft resolution B, as contained in the report of the Committee on Information on its fifteenth session (A/48/21), chap. IV, to be adopted by the General Assembly at its current session.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

3/ A/48/6 (Sect. 24).